

A BLESSED BOND

Marriage Is One of Allaah's Laws

Allaah (ﷻ) created our world and the laws that govern it. Among Allaah's laws is that we need food to survive, air to breathe, rain for vegetation, and so on. One of Allaah's important laws is that things are created in pairs; and from these pairs, reproduction occurs. Allaah (ﷻ) says:

وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٤٩﴾

“We have created all things in pairs, that perhaps you may remember.”¹

This applies to human beings who are made of male – female pairs as well. Humankind started with our father, Aadam, and our mother, Hawwa' (Eve). From that pair, Allaah (ﷻ) created all of the other people, as He (ﷻ) says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا
وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً

“O people! Revere your Lord who has created you from a single soul, created from it its mate, and dispersed from both of them many men and women.”²

¹ Soorah Ath – Thaariyaat 51:49.

² Soorah An – Nisaa' 4:1.

Islaam Urges The Muslims To Marry

DEFINITION

The word commonly used in Islaamic texts for marriage is *nikaah*. In the original Arabic language, it means “intercourse”. But it was then applied to the marriage agreement because it is a means to intercourse.³

A COMMAND FROM ALLAAH AND HIS MESSENGER

Allaah (ﷻ) commands the believers to marry and help those under their charge to marry as well. He says:

وَأَنْكِحُوا الْأَيِّمَىٰ مِنْكُمْ وَالصَّالِحِينَ مِنْ عِبَادِكُمْ وَإِمَائِكُمْ ۚ إِن يَكُونُوا فُقَرَاءَ
يُغْنِهِمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٣٢﴾

“Marry the unmarried among you and the righteous of your male and female slaves. If they should be poor, Allaah will enrich them from His favors.

Allaah is Bountiful and Knowing.”⁴

Also, Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) commanded the young people to marry, and advised those of them who could not afford it to fast as a means of controlling their sexual desire. Ibn Mas’ood (رضي الله عنه) reported, “We were with the Prophet (ﷺ) while we were young and had no wealth whatsoever. So Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«يا معشرَ الشبابِ، مَنْ اسْتَطَاعَ مِنْكُمُ الْبَاءَةَ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ، فَإِنْهُ أَغْضُ
لِلْبَصَرِ وَأَحْصَنُ لِلْفَرْجِ، وَمَنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَعَلَيْهِ بِالصَّوْمِ، فَإِنَّهُ لَهُ وَجَاءٌ.»

³ Lisan ul – ‘Arab.

⁴ Soorah An – Nur 24:32.

“Young men, those among you who can afford marriage should do so, for it helps lower the gaze and guard the private parts (from zina). And those who cannot afford it should fast, for fasting is a repression (of desire) for him.”⁵

DANGER OF BACHELORSHIP

A strange phenomenon has recently developed among Muslims, without being confined to one country or nationality – a phenomenon whose consequences can prove to be most devastating to the Muslim community. This phenomenon is the alarming number of unmarried Muslim men and women.

On an individual level, it may appear that bachelorship poses a very insignificant threat to the Islaamic world. However, in Islaam, unlike other religions, matters are weighed in light of their benefits or harms to the community as a whole. So, what is the effect of single unmarried men and women on the community? To find the answer to this question, all one has to do is look at the non-Muslim communities. Every day we are confronted by the perversion and sinful practices that the non-Muslims find acceptable in their societies. This occurs because of their unnatural decision to abstain from marriage.

Marriage Is A Practice Of The Prophet

The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) indicated that marriage is part of his *Sunnah*, and that whoever neglects it is not of his true followers. Even though he derived the greatest pleasure and highest satisfaction from the prayer, Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) expressed that he still had the desire for worldly pleasures such as women and perfume. This is only natural for a human messenger. Anas (رضي الله عنه) reported that Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«حُبُّ إِلَيَّ مِنْ دُنْيَاكُمْ النِّسَاءَ وَالطِّيبُ، وَجُعِلَتْ قُرَّةُ عَيْنِي فِي الصَّلَاةِ.»

“Of your worldly life, I have been made to desire women and perfume, But the satisfaction of my eye has been made in the salaah.”⁶

⁵ Saheeh Bukhaari, Volume 7, Book 67, Hadeeth Number 5,066, p. 21; Saheeh Muslim, Volume 4, Book 16, Hadeeth Number 3,398, p. 15; Jaami’ at – Tirmitheeh, Volume 2, Book 9, Hadeeth Number 1,081, p. 452 – 453; Sunan Aboo Daawood, Volume 2, Book 12, Hadeeth Number 2,046, p. 499; Sunan an – Nasaa’i, Volume 4, Book 26, Hadeeth Number 3,211, p. 88 – 89; Sunan ibn Maajah, Volume 3, Book 9, Hadeeth Number 1,845, p. 57 – 58.

‘Aa’ishah (رضي الله عنها) reported that Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«النَّكَاحُ سُنَّتِي، فَمَنْ لَمْ يَعْمَلْ بِسُنَّتِي فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي. وَتَزَوَّجُوا
فَإِنِّي مَكَاثِرٌ بِكُمْ الْأُمَمِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ. وَمَنْ كَانَ ذَا طَوَلٍ فَلْيَنْكِحْ،
وَمَنْ لَمْ يَجِدْ فَعَلَيْهِ بِالْصَّوْمِ، فَإِنَّ الصَّوْمَ لَهُ وَجَاءٌ.»

“Marriage is a sunnah (way) of mine; and whoever does not follow my Sunnah is not of my followers. Marry because I will display your outnumbering the other nations on Resurrection Day. Whoever has wealth should marry, and whoever does not should fast, because fasting is a restraint for him.”⁷

NO MONASTICISM IN ISLAAM

Some of the followers of the earlier prophets tried monasticism as a self discipline that could possibly bring them closer to Allaah. However, they were not able to fulfill it as well as they had hoped. The reason is simply that it contradicts human nature, and that is why it is not permitted in Islaam.

‘Aa’ishah (رضي الله عنها) reported that Khuwaylah, daughter of Hakim Bin Umayyah Bin Harithah Bin al – Awqas as – Sulami (from the tribe of Sulam) visited her. Khuwaylah was married to ‘Uthmaan Bin Maz’oon. Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) saw her and noticed her messy appearance; so he asked ‘Aa’ishah, “O ‘Aa’ishah! What makes Khuwaylah appear so messy?” ‘Aa’ishah (رضي الله عنها) replied, “O Allaah’s Messenger! This woman’s husband fasts during the day and prays during the night. So it is as if she does not have a husband, and thus she neglected her appearance.” Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) then summoned ‘Uthmaan Bin Maz’oon and said to him, “O ‘Uthmaan! Are you doing that because you dislike my Sunnah?” He replied, “By Allaah, no, O Allaah’s Messenger! Rather, my whole interest is to follow your Sunnah.” Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) then said:

⁶ Recorded by Ahmad, an – Nasaa’i, and others. Verified to be authentic by Sheikh al – Albaanee in *Saheeh ul – Jaami’*, Number 3,124.

⁷ *Sunan ibn Maajah*, Volume 3, Book 9, Hadeeth Number 1,846, p. 58 – 59. Verified to be authentic by Sheikh al – Albaanee in *as – Saheehah*, Number 2,383.

«فَإِنِّي أَنَامُ وَأُصَلِّي، وَأَصُومُ وَأُفْطِرُ، وَأَنْكِحُ النِّسَاءَ. فَاتَّقِ اللَّهَ
يَا عِثْمَانُ، فَإِنَّ لَأَهْلِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقًّا، وَإِنْ لَضَيْفِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقًّا،
وَإِنْ لِنَفْسِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقًّا. فَصُمْ وَأُفْطِرْ، وَصَلِّ وَنَمْ.»

“Verily, I sleep and pray, fast and break fast, and marry women. Thus fear and revere Allaah O ‘Uthmaan, because your family has a right upon you, your guests have a right upon you, and your self (body) has a right upon you. So, fast and break fast, and pray and sleep.”⁸

In another report by ‘Aa’ishah (رضي الله عنها), Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) said to him:

«يَا عِثْمَانُ، إِنْ الرِّهَابِيَّةَ لَمْ تُكْتَبْ عَلَيْنَا، أَفَمَا لَكَ فِيَّ أُسْوَةٌ؟
فَوَاللَّهِ إِنِّي أَخْشَاكُمُ لِلَّهِ، وَأَحْفَظُكُمْ لِحُدُودِهِ.»

“O ‘Uthmaan! Monasticism has not been enjoined upon us. Do you not have an example in me? By Allaah, verily I fear Allaah and safeguard His boundaries more than any of you.”⁹

Advantages Of Marriage For Individuals

Being ordained by Allaah the Most Wise and All – Knowing, marriage is sure to have many virtues and advantages. In what follows we list a number of them.

⁸ Recorded by Ahmad and Abou Daawood. Verified to be authentic by Sheikh al – Albaanee in *Irwaa’ ul – Ghaleel*, Number 2,015.

⁹ Recorded by Ibn Hibbaan, Ahmad, and at – Tabaraanee in *al – Kabeer*. Verified to be authentic by Sheikh al – Albaanee in *Irwaa’ ul – Ghaleel*, Number 2,015.

1. PRESERVATION OF FAITH AND RELIGION

Righteous spouses assist one another in preserving their Deen by offering help, support, and advice that enable them to obey Allaah and abstain from sinning. Anas (رضي الله عنه) reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«من رزقهُ اللهُ امرأةً صالحةً فقد أعانهُ على
شطرِ دينِهِ، فليَتَّقِ اللهُ في الشطرِ الباقي.»

“When Allaah grants one a righteous wife, He has helped him (by that) to preserve half of his religion. Let him then fear and revere Allaah in regard to the other half.”¹⁰

2. PRESERVATION OF CHASTITY

Men have a natural desire for women, and vice versa. Satan takes advantage of that to entice men and move their lusts when a woman approaches or moves away from them. He pictures her to them in an attractive and appealing form, which may lead them to various forms of sinning in compliance with their lusts.

Usaamah Bin Zayd (رضي الله عنه) reported that Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«ما تركت بعدي فتنةً أضرَّ على الرجال من النساء.»

“I have not left after me a trial more harmful to men than women.”¹¹

3. ENJOYING LOVE, MERCY AND SECURITY

Love and mercy are important sentiments that brighten one’s life and give him a feeling of reassurance, security, and happiness. One of Allaah’s (ﷻ) great favors is the love and mercy that He instills among the married couple. They dwell into

¹⁰ Recorded by at – Tabaraanee and al – Haakim. Verified to be *hasan* by Sheikh al – Albaanee in *as – Saheehah*, Number 625.

¹¹ Recorded by al – Bukhaari, Muslim, and others.

each other, just as one dwells into a house that gives him protection, security, and happiness. Allaah (ﷻ) says:

وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ
مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

“And among His signs is that He created for you, from yourselves, spouses that you may dwell (in joy and security) unto them, and He set between you love and mercy; surely in that are signs for those who reflect.”¹²

Furthermore, there is a wonderful feel of closeness between the married couple – similar to the closeness of a garment to a person’s body. They provide for each other protection, comfort, and cover. Allaah (ﷻ) says:

هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَهُنَّ ﴿٢٢﴾

“They are a garment for you and you are a garment to them.”¹³

4. LAWFUL FULFILLMENT OF DESIRE

One of Allaah’s great favors on us is that he provided us with marriage as a lawful channel for venting our desires. Ibn ‘Umar and Ibn ‘Amr (رضي الله عنهما) reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«الدُّنْيَا كُلُّهَا مَتَاعٌ، وَخَيْرُ مَتَاعِ الدُّنْيَا الْمَرْأَةُ الصَّالِحَةُ.»

“This life is a temporary accommodation, and the best of its accommodations is a righteous wife.”¹⁴

¹² Soorah Ar – Rum 30:21.

¹³ Soorah Al – Baqarah 2:187.

¹⁴ Saheeh Muslim, Volume 4, Book 17, Hadeeth Number 3,649, p. 127; Sunan an – Nasaa’i, Volume 4, Book 26, Hadeeth Number 3,234, p. 103; and Ahmad.

Ibn ‘Abbaas (رضي الله عنه) reported that a man came to the Prophet (ﷺ) and said, “We have an orphan girl under our custody. A poor man and a rich man have both courted her. She prefers the poor man, but we prefer the rich man. (What should we do?)” The Prophet (ﷺ) responded:

«لَمْ يُرَ لِلْمُتَحَابِّينِ مِثْلُ النِّكَاحِ.»

“For those who like each other, nothing has proven as good as marriage.”¹⁵

5. PLEASURABLE WAY OF INCREASING GOOD DEEDS

Not only is marriage a lawful means of fulfilling a person’s desire, but is also a means of increasing one’s balance of good deeds.

Aboo Tharr (رضي الله عنه) reported that some of the companions of Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) complained to him. “O Allaah’s Messenger! The wealthy people have taken away all of the rewards. They pray as we do and fast as we do, and they give charities from their extra monies.” He (ﷺ) replied:

«أَوَلَيْسَ قَدْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ مَا تَصَدَّقُونَ؟ إِنْ بِكُلِّ تَسْبِيحَةٍ صَدَقَةٌ،
وَبِكُلِّ تَكْبِيرَةٍ صَدَقَةٌ، وَبِكُلِّ تَهْلِيلَةٍ صَدَقَةٌ، وَبِكُلِّ تَحْمِيدَةٍ صَدَقَةٌ، وَأَمْرٌ
بِالْمَعْرُوفِ صَدَقَةٌ، وَنَهْيٌ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ صَدَقَةٌ. وَفِي بُضْعِ أَحَدِكُمْ صَدَقَةٌ.»

“But has Allaah not given you that which you may offer as charity? Verily:

- ⇒ *Every tasbeeh (saying “Subhaan Allaah - Exalted is Allaah”) is a charity;*
- ⇒ *Every takbeer (saying “Allaahu akbar - Allaah is the Greatest”) is a charity;*
- ⇒ *Every tahleel (saying “Laa ilaaha illallaah - There is no true deity except Allaah”) is a charity;*
- ⇒ *Every tahmeed (saying “Al – hamdu lillaah – Praise be to Allaah”) is a charity;*

¹⁵ *Sunan ibn Maajah*, Volume 3, Book 9, Hadeeth Number 1,847, p. 59; al – Haakim, 2/160; and al – Bayhaquee, 7/78. Verified to be authentic by Sheikh al – Albaanee in *as – Saheehah*, Number 624.

- ⇒ *Commanding good is a charity;*
- ⇒ *Forbidding the evil is a charity;*
- ⇒ *And having intercourse (with your wife) is a charity.”*

The companions asked, “O Allaah’s Messenger, does a person even receive a reward for fulfilling his desire?” He (ﷺ) responded:

«أَرَأَيْتُمْ لَوْ وَضَعَهَا فِي حَرَامٍ، أَكَانَ عَلَيْهِ فِيهَا وَزْرٌ؟»

“Assume that he directed it toward a prohibition (zina), would that not result in a burden for him?”

They replied, “Yes, indeed.” He (ﷺ) deduced:

«فكَذَلِكَ إِذَا وَضَعَهَا فِي الْحَلَالِ كَانَ لَهُ فِيهَا أَجْرٌ.»

“Therefore, if he directs it toward that which is permissible (his wife), he gets a reward for it.”

Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) then mentioned a number of other things that constitute charities, and concluded by saying:

«وَيُجْزَى مِنْ هَذَا كُلُّ رَكْعَتَا الضُّحَى.»

“And all of that may be covered by two rak’aat that one would pray in the mid-morning.”¹⁶

6. LIVING A HARMONIOUS LIFE

Marriage allows a person to live in harmony with his human nature, and eliminates from him feelings of conflict and dejection. As indicated earlier, abstaining from marriage is an unnatural act that has been prohibited by the Prophet (ﷺ).

¹⁶ Recorded by Muslim, Ahmad, and others.

Social Advantages Of Marriage

From the above discussion, we can conclude that marriage has many advantages to the society as a whole. In what follows we list a number of them.

1. PRESERVING HUMANKIND

Marriage fulfills Allaah's law for the reproduction, as we have discussed earlier. Thus it constitutes a correct means of preserving humankind until Allaah inherits the Earth and all what is on it.

2. PRESERVING KINSHIP TIES

Contrary to *zinaa*, marriage preserves and reveres the kinship ties. It establishes the paternal relationships between the children and their parents, giving them all a feeling of dignity and self esteem. That strengthens the feelings of love and care within the society.

3. SAFEGUARDING THE SOCIETY FROM MORAL DEGENERACY

Marriage is the proper way to establishing correct and permissible relationships between men and women. This helps maintain chastity, and protects the Muslim individuals from slipping into the filth of *zinaa* and other sins related to it (which will be fully discussed in a subsequent chapter). Thus, marriage closes the door in the face of many acts of moral degeneracy and decadence, which are among the major causes for the destruction of societies.

4. SAFEGUARDING THE SOCIETY FROM PHYSICAL DISEASES

Together with *zinaa* and its related vices comes a host of destructive diseases. Among those are: gonorrhea, syphilis, venereal ulcers, and, most recently, AIDS. Marriage is an important means of protecting the society from these and many other diseases that can be easily transmitted, and that do not even spare children.

5. ESTABLISHING THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

Marriage is a necessary step toward establishing a healthy environment for nurturing and rearing children. Our children are the fruits of our generation and the future men and women of our Ummah. Through good marriages, we furnish them with the love, mercy, compassion, and guidance that they need for proper growth and development.

6. INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MUSLIMS

In Islaam, what counts is not quantity alone, but quantity together with quality. Therefore, we are urged to increase the number of GOOD Muslims – not superficial Muslims. Good Muslims are those who live by Allaah’s (ﷻ) commands and follow His Messenger’s (ﷺ) guidance. Such are the people who should increase and multiply so as to establish Allaah’s religion in this life and enter His gardens in the next.

A Muslim should marry with the intention of increasing the number of righteous Muslims. Subsequently, he should strive to raise his family upon to the true religion. Only then, would they be among the numbers of Muslims who will please and delight Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) on Judgment Day to the extent that he will boast about them in front of the multitudes of nations who will be present.

Aboo Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) reported that Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«انكحوا فإني مكاثر بكم.»

“Marry, because I will exhibit your large numbers (on Judgment Day).”¹⁷

Aboo Umamah (رضي الله عنه) reported that Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«تزوجوا فإني مكاثر بكم الأمم، ولا تكونوا كرهبانية النصارى.»

“Marry so that (on Judgment Day) I will be delighted by your outnumbering other nations. Do not practice monasticism like the Christians.”¹⁸

¹⁷ Sunan ibn Maajah, Volume 3, Book 9, Hadeeth Number 1,863, p. 69. Verified to be authentic by Sheikh al – Albaanee in Saheeh ul – Jaami’, Number 1,514.

¹⁸ Recorded by al – Bayhaquee and others. Verified to be authentic by Sheikh al – Albaanee in Saheeh ul – Jaami’, Number 2,941 & as – Saheehah, Number 1,782.